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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M e d i c a l O f f i c e r o f H e a l t h

for the YEAR

1 9 4 2 .

L. WILSON EVANS, M.C., M.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Staff

Name	Qualifications	Office Held	Whole or part time
L. Wilson Evans	M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part
H. Haskayne	Cert.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.	Housing and Sanitary Inspector Meat Inspector	Whole
T.H.Powel		Clerk and Assistant	Whole

To The Chairman and Members of
The Oswestry Rural District Council.

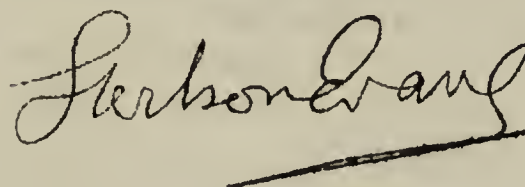
Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present
my fifteenth Annual Report.

The Minister of Health has requested that the report should be prepared on the same lines as those for the previous three years, that it should be an interim report and confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the Public Health during the year, also, figures of population or figures from which local population can be reconstructed must not be published, so the report will of necessity be deprived of much of its interest and information.

Arrangements are to be made for the preservation of all records which cannot be included in this Report.

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Herbert Evans", with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Oswestry Rural District Council

Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the YEAR 1942

<u>Birth Rate :</u>			<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>
Rural District	...	...	15.3	16.1
Oswestry Borough	...	...	16.4	17.0
England and Wales	...	...	14.2	15.8

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births :

Rural District	...	...	46	60
Oswestry Borough	...	...	35	48
England and Wales	...	...	59	49

Still Births : Rate per 1,000 of population

Rural District	...	...	0.27	0.17
Oswestry Borough	...	...	.7	0.71
England and Wales	...	...	0.51	0.54

Death Rate :

Rural District	...	...	12.1	12.8
Oswestry Borough	...	...	11.9	12.7
England and Wales	...	...	12.9	11.6

Chief Causes of Death :

Heart Disease	...	...	68	58
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	...	...	17	27
Cancer (Male : 20; Female : 14)	...	...	20	34
Violence	...	...	10	14

Measles	...	...	2	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	-	-
Diphtheria	...	...	-	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	1

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth	1	-
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The Vital Statistics for the main part give a favourable picture of the health of the district. As throughout the country the birth-rate shows a considerable increase, that of last year being more than maintained.

The death rate is lower than the average of recent years.

An unsatisfactory figure is that for infant mortality, which shows an unexpected rise, thirteen of the deaths were due to premature birth, or congenital disability. Few babies who survived the first few weeks of life died, the causes of the great majority of these infant deaths would seem to lie in adverse conditions present in the period before birth.

W a t e r S u p p l i e s

Ruyton-Xl-Towns, The Racecourse, Pentre, Melferley, Sarn Holdings, Morton, Selattyn, are all parts of the district where the supply of water is far from satisfactory, but the projected schemes for the provision of improved supplies have been held up by the war demands on labour and materials.

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases -

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

			<u>Number of cases</u>	<u>Number admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Diphtheria	...	...	6	6	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	25	22	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	1	1	-
Pneumonia	...	...	21	3	1
Erysipelas	...	...	1	1	-
Measles	...	...	71	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	15	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	7	4	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	1	1	-
Para-Typhoid Fever	...	...	1	1	-

The Diphtheria cases were isolated ones scattered through the year and in no case did a second case follow as a result of the first.

Immunisation continued to make good progress and by the end of the year a very large percentage of all children under 15 years of age had had protecting injections. During the latter part of the year the County Council took over the responsibility for the immunisation of all children up to school-leaving age. Their scheme was originally intended to deal only with children under five years of age and school entrants. Your Council foresaw the difficulties which would result from two authorities making arrangements for children of different ages in the schools and declined to agree to this and requested the County Council to

do all children to avoid overlapping, they however persisted with .. their scheme, so your Council continued to be responsible for all school children and the County Council for children under school age. After its scheme had been carried out in other parts of the County for a short time the County Council finally in November decided to take over the immunisation of all children up to school-leaving age.

Tables of Notifications according to age-groups and months :

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Ages</u>													<u>Totals</u>
	under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-45	45-60	over 60		
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	
Scarlet Fever	1	1	2	1	1	11	3	3	3	1	1	1	25	
Measles	2	2	1	6	6	18	34	1	1	1	1	1	71	
Whooping Cough	1	1	2	1	1	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	15	
Paratyphoid	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	5	5	1	4	21	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	3	3	6	8	8	41	41	7	11	6	2	5	141	
<u>Month</u>	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Novr.	Decr.		
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	6	
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	5	8	2	1	25	
Measles	1	1	1	2	1	30	3	2	2	7	6	18	71	
Whooping Cough	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	10	2	1	15	
Paratyphoid	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Pneumonia	1	3	8	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	21	
Cerebro-Spinal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Ophthalmia- Neonatorum	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
	3	4	10	2	3	38	9	3	8	28	13	21	142	

M e a s l e s

Nearly half the cases of Measles occurred in a boarding school in the district and except for a few isolated cases there was no other outbreak until December when the beginning of a considerable epidemic became manifest.

P n e u m o n i a

The number of cases of Pneumonia notified was half that of last year (21 instead of 40), which is about the normal figure.

D i p h t h e r i a I m m u n i s a t i o n

	<u>Under 5</u>	<u>5-15 yrs.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number of children who completed the full course of immunisation Jan.1 to December 31st. 1942.	578	586	1164.
Percentage of children considered to be immunised at Decr. 31st. 1942.	71	94	
Number of cases of Diphtheria in children under 15 years notified from Jan. 1st. to Decr. 31st. 1942.	1	4	
Number of children notified as suffering from Diphtheria who had completed a course of immunisation.	-	1	

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin Order, 1910

One lot of 8,000 units was used during the year. Supplies can be obtained either from the Council Offices or from Mr H. Haskayne, Sanitary Inspector, "Craignair", Park Drive, Oswestry.

S c a b i e s

Scabies was less troublesome than in the previous year. Fifty-three cases were dealt with, the occupants of twenty-four houses being infected. Nineteen of the cases were evacuated children, ten of these were treated in sick bays. Information of cases is received through the education authorities, and following investigation, treatment is given to any cases not already under treatment by a doctor and preventive measures taken in the case of other occupants of the house. It has not been necessary to take action under the Scabies Order to enforce examination or treatment.

T u b e r c u l o s i s

There has been an increase in cases of Tuberculosis throughout England and Wales during the war years, and the number of new cases notified during 1942 in this district was higher than the average, the increase being accounted for by cases notified from the Services. The number of deaths was considerably below the average for recent years.

Following the report of the Special Committee on "Tuberculosis in War-time" the Government have brought forward important proposals to deal with some of the chief factors in the spread of pulmonary tuberculosis. Among these proposals are the maintenance allowance to a patient while undergoing treatment for this disease, and his dependents as well as other financial benefits; and the extensive use of mass radiography which is a valuable means of discovering cases in the earliest stage. These measures, by safeguarding the nutrition of the patient and his family by offering a means of finding the early sign

of the disease while it is in a stage when cure is probable should have the effect of reducing the incidence of this disease.

<u>Tuberculosis Notification :</u>				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Respiratory	...	...	...	9	3	12
Non-respiratory	...	...	...	5	5	10

Transfers from Other Districts :

Respiratory	...	...	...	3	-	3
Non-respiratory	...	...	...	-	-	-

Deaths :

Respiratory	...	...	...	3	2	5
Non-respiratory	...	...	...	-	1	1

V e n e r e a l D i s e a s e

Facilities for Treatment :

Shrewsbury Clinic : 1 Belmont.

MEN :	Tuesday 6 - 8 p.m.	WOMEN :	Monday 2 - 4 p.m.
	Friday 6 - 8 p.m.		Wednesday 2 - 4 p.m.

Oswestry Clinic : The Dispensary, Lower Brook Street.

MEN :	Thursday 1 - 2 p.m.	WOMEN :	Thursday 2 - 3 p.m.
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It has been stated that there has been an increase of seventy-five per cent throughout the Country since the war started. These figures are based on attendances at Clinics, and on the number of Service cases. To judge from this evidence there has been no increase in this district.

